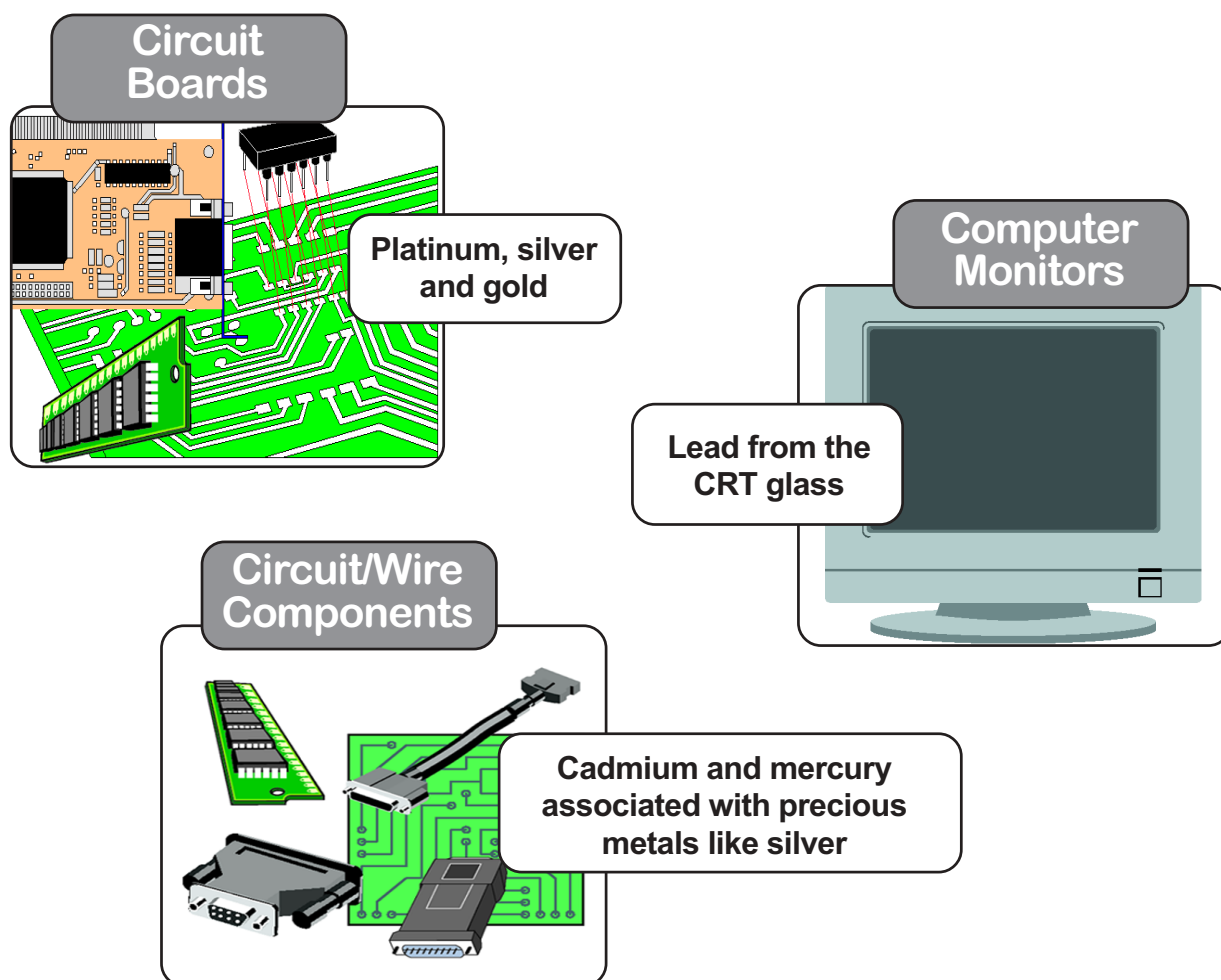


Discarded Electronics

The printing industry responds to a demanding prepress environment with rapidly changing electronic, digital, and telecommunication equipment. Computers are useful for only two to three years and obsolete equipment are becoming a major “waste stream” for printers.

Many electronic and computer components contain metals. If these components are not properly managed, these metals can be released into the environment from landfills and municipal incinerators. Here are some of the metals we find in electronic and computer equipment.



You have three options available to manage obsolete electronics and computers – reuse, recycling and disposal.

First Try Reuse !

Electronic and computer equipment that is functional, but obsolete, may be suitable for reuse.

Contact local schools, training institutions, or nonprofit organizations to find out the types of equipment they accept as donations. Some organizations may accept computers in need of repair. They will repair, consolidate, or reassemble the equipment for donation or sale to others.

An on-line directory of organizations that facilitate donation of used computers to schools and community groups is available at the following Web site:

http://www.microweb.com/pepsite/Recycle/recycle_index.html.

Companies that donate personal computers (less than two years old) to K-12 schools may qualify for an enhanced charitable deduction starting the 1998 calendar tax year. Check with your accountant or tax consultant.



Important Tip

Then Try Recycling

Equipment that does not work and cannot be cost effectively repaired or is so obsolete that it cannot be reused can be disassembled for the scrap value.

Printed circuit boards and wiring may contain recoverable quantities of precious metals, copper or aluminum. Frames and cases contain recyclable steel and plastic. (In fact, many computer manufacturers now use recycled plastic in their computer cases.) Monitors and CRTs made with leaded glass and shields can be recycled into new CRT glass or smelted for the recovery of lead.

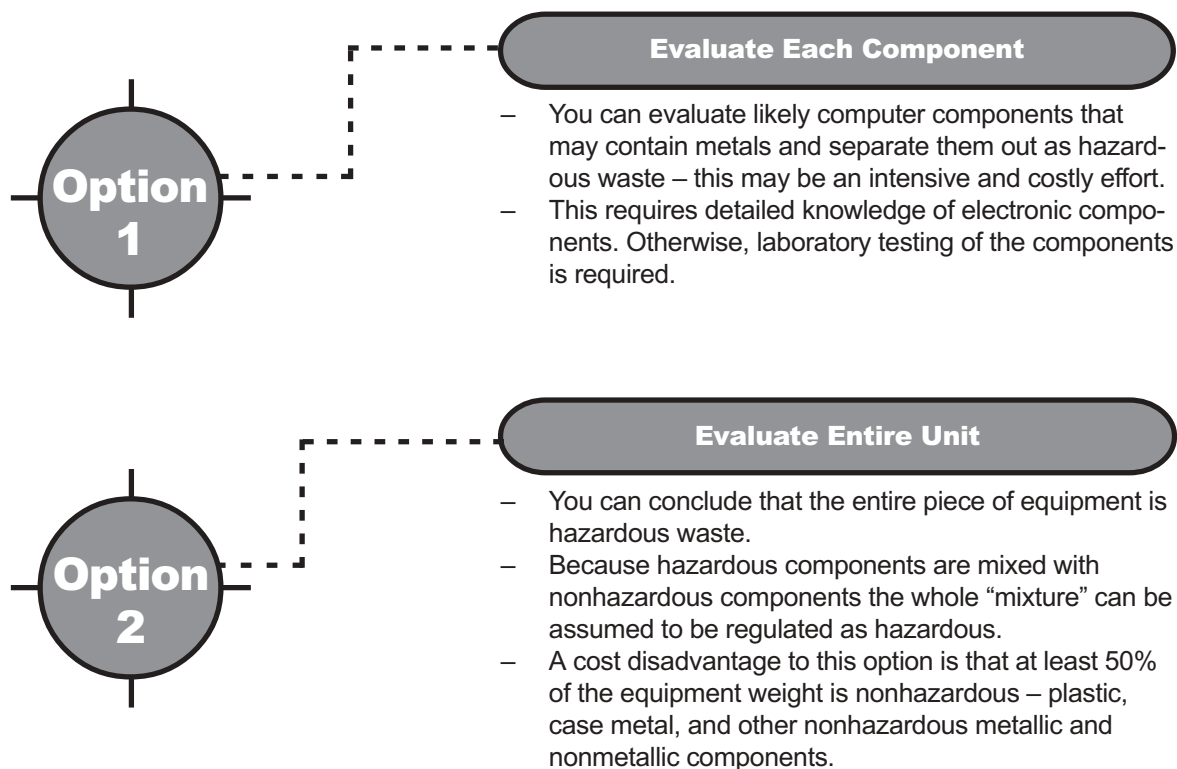


Unfortunately, these recycling options are not always available in your area or may not be cost effective. Few electronics recycling firms have been established at this time. To start, you can check EPA's Electronics Reuse and Recycling Directory (EPA530-B-97-001, January 1997) available at EPA's website. You may also find listings in the local phone directory or on the World Wide Web. For a web search, use keywords (like electronics, monitors or computers, and recycling) to find individual firms and on-line directories maintained by charity organizations and electronic or computer trade associations.

How to Dispose

**Electronic and computer equipment contain metals
that may exceed regulatory limits for hazardous wastes.**

Some of electronic components may fail the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) Test for the hazardous waste metals (silver, mercury and cadmium). The burden is on you to make the determination. You have two options when you want to dispose of electronic and computer equipment.



In either case, you will then have to follow the generator requirements for the management and disposal of hazardous wastes.

To avoid the hazardous waste requirements, you should make every effort to reuse or recycle obsolete electronic and computer equipment. The long term costs and liabilities associated with reuse and recycling computer equipment will be significantly less than disposal.